

## HAWAIIAN BY THE SEA.

(XXVI.)

THE BIBLE.

By ANNE MARIE PRESCOTT.

I.  
SCREENINGS AND SCRAPS.

You all know, pretty well, what screenings are, if you ever had to do with a cold winter, where of all things, good, clean, shining bright coals were positively essential in order to keep a strong, cheery, comforting fire. Screenings are refuse matter. They are good, really, when well-exposed, for nothing. Just dirty, smutty dust; no life, no flame, no heat, no help—an irritation and a nuisance—rubbish. And yet, "screenings" in one form and another, are put upon the market, and empty as they are of true, substantial help, find too often a niche. Why, in a western city, one cold winter, very, coal which was but little better all through and through than screenings, was "palmed off" by a member of the Board of Education to the "Committee on Supplies," for the use of the schools, and those teachers, to say nothing of the pupils, had to shiver and bear it. A corner, a job in screenings—a clever, cool thing in finance. Now, we want no screenings in schools or home, in books or in teaching. We want live coals from off the very altar—the altar of Nature, the altar of religion, the altar of work—give us coal, no screening!

"The child is father of the man." Is he? That's a big statement to make and involves a trifle. Let us see.

Scraps—detached, incomplete portions, a fragment of something printed or written. (A something out of which the sweet richness has been taken, it may be.) A scrap need not be worthless by any means. It may stand for a gem, a bright spark of true talent or genius—a proverb, a quip, a witticism, a pun, a moral; a good 'un.

Let us have good, sweet scraps often then; but let us not begin and end our meal with them, excepting, say on washing day, to accommodate the women folk.

Have we ever found a human being uninspired that could write anything to compare with the Psalms, or a poem equal to Job—a chapter of Isaiah, an Ecclesiastic, or 'tes? Does the Vicar of Wakefield compare with Nehemiah? Hamlet with Hosea—the Olyseus with Obadiah—Milton with Malachi—all the religious books in the world with either of the four Gospels? Who can exhort, entreat, advise as St. Paul—who can love as St. John, remind as St. Peter? Where do you find the inspired language of Revelation, of Daniel, of Moses, Joshua, Elijah, Deborah, Ruth, Miriam?

Where is the modern writer, today, who has the seven-fold gifts of the Holy Spirit and can give to the Christian world another "Te Deum Laudamus," yea even a "Rock of Ages."

Where do you find a Magnificent, a Jubilant Deo, a Nunc Dimittis? Shut out the very word of God; (the heaven-born classic,) the glorious song, the majestic epic, the sermon of all sermons, the prophecy, the angels' visits, the life of our Lord on earth; you dare to close that Book of all books and shelve it from children's eyes, and study and thought, and then repeat: "The child is father of the man!" The child is father of the infidel, father of the thief, the liar, the dangerous man. The child is, too often, just what he is made! He is fed and taught and clothed, mentally, with screenings and with scraps; and he is expected to come out, of that mold, an acceptable member of society, of the world; a good man, loving and seeking righteousness! We grow by what we feed on. It is the law, inexorable, of cause and effect. "God is not in all his thoughts." "Ephraim is joined to his idols; let him alone."

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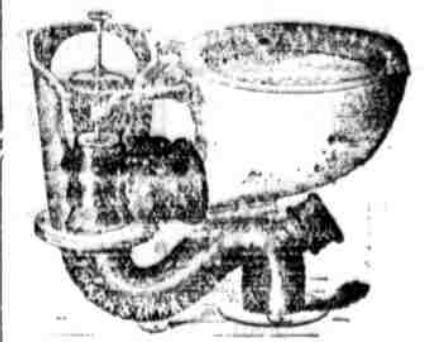
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